

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2514A
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Hosts Seminar Aimed at Creating Representative Juries

Chicago, Ill.- On February 23, 2017, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the State and Federal Jury Representation Seminar for judges, clerks of court, law clerks, court administrators, jury administrators and jury coordinators from federal and state courts throughout Illinois.

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the desirability of diverse juries for decision-making and to identify methods to achieve representative juries. The seminar included panels on Race and Jury Selection, Techniques and Procedures for Increasing Citizen Participation in the Jury System, Challenges to Jury Diversity, Representative Deliberation, Achieving Diversity on the Jury, Obstacles to Representative Deliberation, and Practical Issues for Judges.

“We are excited to host this seminar and create a forum we hope will result in courts taking concrete action to increase citizen participation in our jury system and to create more representative juries. Ensuring that juries reflect our district’s ethnic and racial diversity has been and will continue to be a key priority for our court,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

Panelists included the following individuals:

Professor Jeffrey B. Abramson, University of Texas at Austin School of Law
Hon. Walter D. Braud, Chief Judge, 14th Circuit
Thomas G. Bruton, Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Hon. Rubén Castillo, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Professor Shari Seidman Diamond, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
Hon. Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Paula Hannaford-Agor, Director, Center for Jury Studies, National Center for State Courts

Hon. Arthur F. Hill, Circuit Court of Cook County
Hon. William H. Hooks, Circuit Court of Cook County
Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Hon. Stephen A. Kouri, 10th Circuit, Jury Representation Seminar Committee
Hon. Joseph G. McGraw, Chief Judge, 17th Circuit; Chair, Conference of Chief Circuit Judges
Hon. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Professor Destiny Peery, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
Todd A. Schroeder, Assistant Director, Court Services Division, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Hon. Michael P. Toomin, Circuit Court of Cook County

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